

Weekly Column for June 5, 2008

There is more news on the summer events front this week. In anticipation of significant turnout due to interest from competitors, the inaugural Troy Pig Out has been moved from River Street and Broadway to Riverfront Park. We also announced this week that prize money for the Pig Out would total at least \$7,500.

With the backdrop of the Hudson River, this event has now added a dimension that was previously missing. During the summer months, the River is a tremendous recreational asset, and having this event take place in Riverfront Park will only add to the fun. Thousands of people will be coming to Troy for the first time, and we are intent on putting on a good show.

As part of the announcement regarding the location change, organizers have also released the final rules for the contest. I'm taking these verbatim from the organizers and hope to see everyone interested in Troy take part.

Saturday, July 19th Grilling Contest (Backyard BBQ)

The backyard BBQ will take place Saturday afternoon. Set-up is to be completed by 11 a.m. when inspections will begin. Competition will take place in four separate categories: Beef, chicken, vegetables and pizza. Turn in times to the judges will be as follows: Chicken (2 p.m.), Vegetables (2:30 p.m.), Beef (3 p.m.), and Pizza (3:30 p.m.). Wood, wood pellets, charcoal, gas or electric grilling is allowed during the competition on Saturday.

Each category is governed by the following limitations:

- Chicken- Wings are the cut that MUST be used. Follow Kansas City Barbecue Society rules. Absolutely NO frying is allowed. The wing portion is at the discretion of the competitor. Six or more portions must be submitted.
- Vegetables-No tomatoes allowed, they are not technically vegetables! Six or more distinguishable portions.
- Beef- Certified bone-in Certified Black Angus Beef will be provided to competitors. Please turn in whole, table captains will cut and serve.
- Pizza- Boxes will be provided. Cut into six or more servings. Anything goes, Be Creative!

General Grilling Rules For The Backyard BBQ:

- The presentation is KCBS garnish only, everything else in the box will be judged
- Everything in the turn-in box must be edible and if it is not KCBS garnish (green leaf lettuce or parsley) it will be judged as part of the entry.

Awards will be presented to the Backyard BBQ champions in each category. There will be four (4) first place prizes of \$100, four (4) second place prizes of \$50, and four (4) third place prizes of \$25. The entry cost for the tournament is \$25.

The Grand Champion of the Backyard BBQ will receive a new Grill. The reserve Champion will receive \$150.

Applications are available at www.visittroyny.gov The deadline for entry is July 1st.

All local restaurants, neighborhood groups, BBQ enthusiasts, and anyone with a grill is encouraged to enter. You may enter as many categories as you like. The entrance fee covers each category.

Sunday, July 20th – Professional Barbecue Championship

All contestants must follow Kansas City Barbecue Society Rules. Meat inspection will take place beginning on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Prize money will be at least \$7,500 and grow depending upon the number of entries!

Proceeds from the event, which is sponsored by the City of Troy, Tosca, Chef's Solutions, and the Troy Downtown Collaborative will be donated to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Any vendors interested in participating in the event should contact Rhoads at 518-423-1194 or Jeff Buell at 518-270-4554.

Finally today, a quick reminder that the Flag Day Parade is Sunday, I'm sure everyone was well aware of that. Also the Wednesday Night Concert Series Rockin' On The River kicks off this coming week with renowned Blues Guitarist Albert Cummings. The show begins at 5 p.m.

And finally, next week is the 5th Annual River Street festival. Our fingers are crossed that we are blessed with good weather for each event.

Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy